

4/3/21

Dear Parents,

I trust that you and your families are all keeping well. I want to thank all of you again who have engaged with your child's Remote Learning over these past weeks. I appreciate that it has been a very difficult time for everyone. I would really encourage you all to keep going with this important work as this will really benefit your child in the longer term.

As you probably will have heard by now, the Minister of vEducation has written to schools on 24<sup>th</sup> February to inform us that there will be a phased return of pupils to school.

**Year 1 to Year 3 pupils** will return to face to face teaching on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. **During this time Remote Learning will cease for all children in Year 1 to 3.** However, these classes will then return to remote learning on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March until Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April when the school will close at 12noon for the Easter holidays. They will return to face to face teaching again after the Easter holidays on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Year 4 to Year 7** pupils will continue with remote learning until Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April when the Easter holidays begin. We still have no confirmed date for the return to school for Year 4 -7 pupils. Once we are informed we will be in touch with you. In the meantime, the school will continue to provide supervised learning for vulnerable pupils and those of keyworkers until such times that a full return to school is instructed by the Minister.

**Key Worker & Vulnerable children** It is essential to remember that the staff we will have available to manage this provision will be drastically reduced due to the return to face to face teaching for Years 1 – 3. This provision must only be used if there is NO OTHER provision available to you, as per DE guidance. We fully understand the stress and pressure home learning can place on families but we urge you to help us in what hopefully will be the last major lockdown of schools. We respectfully ask that parents consider every reasonable possibility before making an application. **For children working in school, parents remain fully responsible for checking and uploading all work each day, including learning spellings and Mental Maths.**

**School meals** Subject to Department of Finance approval, direct payments in lieu of free school meals will be made in respect of pupils in year groups that are not required to attend school and continue to learn remotely from home. Where pupils are required to attend school, school meals services will operate as normal

Direct payments in lieu of free school meals will not be made in respect of pupils in year groups that are required to attend school as these pupils will receive free school meals at school for the period they are required to attend. Those required to attend but who are unable to do so, on medical or PHA advice, for covid-19 related reasons (e.g. self-isolation) should be offered a food parcel as was the position from September – December 2020.

**Free school meals** will not be provided to key workers' children and vulnerable children entitled to free school meals when at school for supervised learning as their parents will receive a direct payment.

Any pupil at school who wishes, including vulnerable children and children of key workers, may purchase a meal. (Menu will be sent separately).

**School Routine** including starting and finishing times are attached at the end of this letter.

## Arrangements for Morning drop-off:

### Pupil drop-off times (at either of the two paths at An Ráth Dubh carpark):


Class	Entry Time	Entry Door
P.1/2 Mrs Herron's class and their siblings	9:00 – 9:05 am	Outdoor Play Area door at Mrs Herron's class (P.1 parents – Signage is in place and staff will be available to direct you)
P.2/3 Mrs Evans & Mrs Devlin's class	9:05 – 9:10 am	Mobile door (pupils walk down path from An Ráth Dubh as normal, cross the front of the school and go directly to the mobile)
P.4-7 Vulnerable & Key Worker Children	9.00 – 9.10	Assembly Hall Door

Please exercise caution and ensure that your child or children use the path which is least congested in order to comply with PHA regulations. The children must go straight to their own classroom without delay.

Please note – these arrangements will be reviewed on a regular basis. Our overarching aim is the safety of everyone in our school, and if too many children are entering at the one time, we may have to make changes to ensure safety. As we have already informed you, it is impossible for us to run our early morning club at present due to Public Health Guidance. We understand and appreciate that this is a valuable facility for working parents but employers have been advised by the Government to show sensitivity to employees with school-aged children who will need flexibility at this time.

Please also note – all parents must park in An Ráth Dubh carpark. There are two disabled spaces at the front of the school for those who need to use these. **Cars may not park across the front gate under any circumstances.** If any other parents feel that they may need to park at the front of the school, please contact the principal.

### **Afternoon:**

Class	Collection Time	Location
All Primary 1 and 2 pupils	2:00 pm	Adult collecting pupils to walk to the main playground at the appointed collection time, where your children will be sent directly out to you.
P.3 pupils	2.45 pm	
Key Worker & Vulnerable children	2.45pm	

Many thanks, Mr Diamond